

of the less well-known books, for Mr. Madan has read as well as collected and described. The one thing he has not done, as far as this reviewer can see, is to leave anything whatever for any one else to add to his work.

A. W. P.

THE BERLIN LIBRARY¹

THIRTY-NINE essays by members of the 'scientific staff' of the Royal Library, now Prussian State Library, at Berlin are collected in this volume as an offering to its Generaldirektor, Adolf von Harnack, on the occasion of his retirement under the age limit after fifteen years of office. The subjects of all of them are more or less directly connected with the Library, the majority being concerned with its administration, and the information which they supply is the more interesting as the annual report has been discontinued since 1916. Professor von Harnack superintended the removal of the Library to its new premises, claimed as the largest of their kind in existence, shortly before the outbreak of the war, which cut short what promised to be a record development. The number of separate volumes contained in it is now calculated at about 1½ millions, an increase of about 40 per cent. in fifteen years. Its speciality has always been German literature in all its manifestations, and its aim is to become 'the national lending library', books being sent out to sister institutions all over Germany, and as many as 10,000 having gone beyond the boundaries of Prussia in 1913-14. While this is of course an excellent thing for the provinces, the system tends to put readers on the spot at a disadvantage, and the students of Berlin have been known to consider it something of a grievance that the books they call for are so often 'not at home'.

¹ *Fünfzehn Jahre Königliche und Staatsbibliothek*. 1921. pp. vi. 285. 11½ × 8½ in.

The grant for purchases amounted to Mk. 316,400 in 1914, and has not since been increased, but considerable sums have been added in the shape of non-recurring grants in each year since 1918, while the help of the Verein der Freunde der Kgl. Bibliothek—a German equivalent of the National Art Collections Fund—has enabled many valuables to be acquired. The staff now numbers about 340 all told, and includes 22 women among the diplomaed 'Bibliotheksssekretäre'. It is significant of present conditions that the amount spent on salaries, which was Mk. 385,580 in 1905, stands to-day at 3½ millions, *plus* Mk. 800,000 for the 'Hilfsarbeiter', but not including doorkeepers and the lower grades. It was not till 1911 that the Library started a binding shop of its own, and even now the pressure of the trade prevents it from undertaking more than about three-quarters of the binding work to be done.

Among the more specialized papers is one by Prof. Voulliéme on the collection of incunabula, from which it appears that this was not separately catalogued until 1906 nor brought together on the shelves until 1909. Since then it has made great strides; new items have been added during the last fifteen years at the rate of 100 per annum, and the total now stands at about 6,100. A systematic attempt was made about 1910 to sweep into it the contents of smaller provincial collections which have little interest in early printing, in return for a moderate purchase price, but, evidently to the chagrin of the central authorities, this had to be given up in view of the strong local opposition. German printing is of course specialized in, and the Library now has more than 50 per cent. of all Cologne incunabula known. Prof. Voulliéme reproduces the last page of the Burgundische Historie of Erhard Tusch, 'Getruckt zu Strassburg' in 1477 with the larger type of 'Georgius de Spira', a piece of evidence which (as was recognized when it came up for sale at Sotheby's)

renders untenable the theory advanced in the B.M. Incunabula Catalogue (vol. ii, pp. 483, &c.) that the Ratisbon Breviary and the dozen or so other books connected with this printer were executed at Speier. Another facsimile, however, shows that the Melber, *Vocabularius predicantium*, hitherto left 'unassigned' and suspected of being later than 1500 (Proctor, no. 1925, IA. 15653), was printed by Hans Schäffler at Ulm in or about 1492—an interesting promotion. Professor Schwenke writes on the fragments of the earliest Mainz Donatuses, of which the Library now possesses a very representative collection of fourteen, including what is taken to be the oldest surviving piece of printing except the 'Weltgericht' fragment in the Gutenberg Museum at Mainz. Professor Haebler gives us interesting information on the present state of the great 'Gesamtkatalog' of incunabula which has been preparing for some fifteen years. The total number of editions admitted to the canon is about 38,000, but this figure includes all the numerous dubia which may just as well belong to 1501-5 as to 1495-1500. Full descriptions have been made of all incunabula hitherto accessible to the German cataloguers, but the work of co-ordinating them still goes on and must be an almost interminable labour. On the other hand, a very large number of books are known to the Kommission only from references in various lists and catalogues, and under the circumstances this seems likely to prove a very serious obstacle to the completion of the work. Since the resignation of Professor Haebler Dr. vom Rath is at the head of the Kommission, with Dr. Crous as his second in command.

A word of mention is due to Dr. W. Doegen's article on the 'Lautabteilung' of the Library, a very interesting new departure. Its purpose is to collect phonographic records illustrative of music and speech in every quarter of the globe, and it appears to have made good use of the unique oppor-

tunities afforded* to it by prisoners of war, of whose languages and dialects, ranging from Samoan to Finnish, about 3,000 records were made. Over 200 languages altogether are represented in the collection.

V. S.

THE EDINBURGH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY¹

THIS new instalment of the Publications of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society completes Vol. XI, to which it adds an Abstract of Proceedings for the years 1917-20 and a list of all the papers printed in the eleven volumes, the first of which appeared in 1896. The three new papers here printed are all of interest. Under the title *The Aberdeen Doctors and the National Covenant* Mr. James D. Ogilvie describes, with a full bibliography, the controversy which arose at Aberdeen in 1638 between the opponents of the Covenant and its supporters. The first pamphlet issued, 'General demands concerning the late Covenant to be propounded to some Reverend Brethren who were to recommend it to us and our people' printed by Edward Raban, is now only known from a manuscript copy. For the other eight entries of 1638 references are given in four cases to copies in the Aberdeen University Library, for three others to copies in Mr. Ogilvie's possession, and in one case, the original edition of *The Answeres of some Brethren of the Ministerie to the Replies of the Ministers and Professours of Divinitie in Aberdene* only to Edmond's *Aberdeen Printers*. A copy is, however, in the British Museum (pressmark 1019. f. 10/5) sandwiched in between the two halves of *The Answers* and *Duplies* 'printed by R. Y. (Robert Young) His Majesties Printer for Scotland'.

In the second paper Mr. James Cameron Ewing gives

¹ *Publications of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society*. Vol. XI. Part ii. Edinburgh, Printed for the Society. October 1921.